

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00608 190419Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
/034 W

-----190558Z 002423 /20

R 170604Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
INFO JCS WASHDC//J5//
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
SECSTATE WASHDC 3153

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0608

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MASS MU
SUBJECT: JOINT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES PLAN (JSOP)

REF: USCINCEUR DTG 241211Z MAR 77

1. POST UNABLE COME UP WITH DATA APPROACHING COMPLEXITY REQUESTED
IN REFERENCED MESSAGE. WE HAVE NO DEFATT HERE AND COULD NOT
COMPILE SUCH INFORMATION WITHOUT ENORMOUSLY TAXING SMALL
EMBASSY STAFF. IN ANY CASE WE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE
WORTHWHILE TO DO SO IN COUNTRY WHERE OUR ONLY MILITARY INVOLVEMENT
IS SMALL FMS PROGRAM MEETING REQUESTS INITIATED BY OMANIS ON
LARGELY AD HOC BASIS.

2. RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC ITEMS IN REFERENCED MESSAGE, KEYED
TO SUB-SECTIONS PARA 3, FOLLOW TO EXTENT WE ABLE SUPPLY DATA:

(A) SEE OUR MSAP SUBMISSION LAST YEAR (76 MUSCAT 1490 DTG
050330Z DEC 76, PARA 2). U.S. STRATEGIC INTEREST OUTLINED
THAT MESSAGE IS STILL VALID.

(B) NO RELEVANT TREATIES OR OTHER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS EXIST
BETWEEN U.S. AND OMAN. AGREEMENT OF OMANGOV TO LET U.S. RECON-
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00608 190419Z

NAISSANCE AIRCRAFT LAND AT MASIRAH ISLAND IS SOLE INVOLVEMENT.
COMMITMENTS OF BRITISH, IRANIAN, AND JORDANIAN FORCES TO
AID OMAN COULD CONCEIVABLY INVOLVE THOSE COUNTRIES IN MILI-
TARY ACTION.

(C) ASSUME JCS HAS NO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE INVOLVING ROLE FOR
OMANI MILITARY FORCES.

(D) DATA NOT AVAILABLE IN DETAIL REQUESTED. AS OF APRIL 1, 1977, OMANI MILITARY FORCES REORGANIZED INTO THREE INDEPENDENT SERVICES: ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE. THIS DIFFERS FROM PREVIOUS STRUCTURE IN WHICH COMMANDER OF ARMY ALSO COMMANDED ENTIRE ARMED FORCES. THERE WILL BE A JOINT STAFF COORDINATING THE THREE SERVICES, ROLE OF WHICH NOT YET FULLY DETERMINED. SUPPORTING THE SERVICES WILL BE CIVILIAN STAFF IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

3. TOTAL ARMED FORCE STRENGTH IN OMAN IS 13,030. MILITARY SERVICE IS VOLUNTARY. THERE ARE APPROX. 1,200 OFFICERS, OF WHOM ABOUT HALF ARE OMANIS AND HALF ARE BRITISH SECONDED OR CONTRACT OFFICERS. THERE ARE ALSO SOME MEDICS WHO ARE INDIAN NATIONALS. DETAILS AVAILABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I. ARMY: CONSISTS OF 11,800 MEN DIVIDED INTO 2 BRIGADE HEAD-QUARTERS, ONE IN NORTHERN OMAN AND ONE IN DHOFAR; 8 INFANTRY BATTALIONS, OF WHICH 3 ARE MANNED BY BALUCHIS AND 5 BY OMANIS; 1 ROYAL GUARD REGIMENT; 1 ARTILLERY REGIMENT (4 GUN BATTERIES); 1 SIGNALS REGIMENT; 1 PARACHUTE SQUADRON; 1 ARMORED CAR SQUADRON; 1 ENGINEERING SQUADRON. EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF 36 SALADIN ARMORED CARS; 10 TOW ATGW; 36/105 MM/35 PDR GUNS; 3 /5.5 IN GUNS. SOME 25 PDR AND 75/24 HOWITZERS REMAIN IN SERVICE.

II. NAVY: TOTALS 450 MEN. HAS 1 ROYAL YACHT; 1 TRAINING SHIP; 1 COASTAL FREIGHTER; 4 FPB'S (FURTHER 3 ON ORDER; OF THOSE ON HAND, 3 ARE WITH BOFORS, 1 WITH OTO MELARA 76 MM); 2 TPV'S (EX-DUTCH MCM); 4 SMALL LANDING CRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00608 190419Z

III. AIR FORCE: COMPRISES 780 MEN. EQUIPMENT CONISTS OF 1 FGA/RECCE SQUADRON OF 16 HUNTERS; 1 SQUADRON OF 12 JAGUARS (NOW FROMING, 2 OF AIRCRAFT ON HAND SO FAR); ONEBASIC FLYING/ TRAINING SQUADRON OF 8 BAC 167'S; 1 TRANSPOR SQUADRON OF 3 BAC III'S AND 2 VISCOUNTS; 1 COMNS SQUADRON OF 7 DEFENDERS; 1 HELICOPTER SQUADRON OF 5 AB 214B'S, 3 AB 206'S, AND 20 AB 205'S; 1 TACTICAL TRANSPORT SQUADRON WITH 15 SKYVANS; 1 RAPIER SQUADRON WITH 28 FIRE UNITS (NOW FORMING); 1 FALCON EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, THERE IS 3,000 MAN PARA-MILITARY FORCE KNOWN AS THE FIRQAT, STATIONED IN DHOFAR. IT IS A TRIBAL FORCE CONSINTING MOSTLY OF EX-PFLO ENEMY. IT IS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE WALI (GOVERNOR) OF DHOFAR RATHER THAN OF HQ ARMED FORCES, EXCEPT WHEN IT IS ACTUALLY DEPLOYED WITH ARMED FORCES. THERE IS ALSO A NEWLY FORMED "SULTAN'S SPECIAL FORCES" OF WHICH LITTLE IS KNOWN. IT CONSISTS MAINLY OF DHOFARIS AND IS UNDER THE SULTAN'S DIRECT COMMAND.

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ROYAL GUARD REGIMENT LISTED ABOVE IS ALSO NOT A PART OF REGULAR ARMED FORCES EXCEPT WHEN SO DEPLOYED. ITS PRIMARY TASK IS TO GUARD THE SULTAN.

6. WITH BALUCHI RECRUITS AND BRITISH OFFICERS AND OTHERS LISTED ABOVE, TOTAL NON-OMANI STRENGTH IN ARMED FORCES IS APPROX. 4,000. ALL, HOWEVER, SERVE UNDER OMANI FLAG.

7. FOREIGN-FLAG FORCES IN OMAN CONSIST MAINLY OF 7000-800 IRANIANS IN DHOFAR, FORMED INTO 2 RIFLE COMPANIES WITH HEAD-QUARTERS. THIS IS REMAINDER OF LARGER FORCE WITHDRAWN LAST JANUARY. THERE ARE ALSO A SMALL JORDANIAN ENGINEERING UNIT, A BRITISH ENGINEERING UNIT, A BRITISH MEDICAL TEAM, A 20-MAN BRITISH TRAINING TEAM, AND A FEW BRITISH ARMY SUPPORT PERSONNEL. RAF UNITS PREVIOUSLY STATIONED IN THE COUNTRY WITHDREW MARCH 31.

(E) U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE WILL TAKE FORM OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS
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PAGE 04 MUSCAT 00608 190419Z

FROM OMANI SIDE FOR EQUIPMENT UNDER FMS PROGRAM. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ITEM WILL BE 136 TOW MISSILES (A REPLACEMENT ORDER FOR 180 TOW'S PREVIOUSLY ACQUIRED) TO BE DELIVERED IN MID-1980. OVERALL PROGRAM WILL BE SMALL.

(F) NOT RELEVANT TO OMAN.

(G) NOT RELEVANT TO OMAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMED FORCES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUSCAT00608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770135-0195
Format: TEL
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770449/aaaabqgj.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5bd0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2781545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES PLAN (JSOP)
TAGS: MILI, MASS, MU, US
To: USCINCEUR JCS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5bd0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009